

# THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NATURALIST

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## WEST KIMBERLEY BUTTERFLIES

By JOHN WARHAM, Perth.

In view of the sparseness of published information concerning the entomology of the Kimberley Division it seems worth while to place on record the species of Lepidoptera identified during a stay in the West Kimberley region from May 17 to September 11, 1956. Since we were mainly concerned with birds and mammals, a number of butterflies which were seen, particularly among the Skippers and Blues, were not identified, so that the present list is very incomplete. Insects were captured and identified with the aid of *What Butterfly Is That?* by G. A. Waterhouse (Angus & Robertson, 1932). No specimens were preserved.

Chequered Swallowtail, *Papilio demoleus*. Common both inland and near the coast. Abundant at Brooking Springs on the Fitzroy River at the end of June.

Union Jack, *Delias mysis*. A fast-flying species which was not seen commonly anywhere. It was recorded near Derby, on Cockatoo Island and at Wotjulum Mission, all during August.

Lemon Migrant, *Catopsilia pomona*. Common in "pindan" country during July and August and also frequent in Broome and as far south as Anna Plains homestead.

Orange Migrant, *Catopsilia scylla*. Seen occasionally near Derby; much rarer than *C. pomona*.

Common Albatross, *Appias paulina*. Common in "pindan" country, around Derby and on Cockatoo Island.

Caper White, *Anaphaeis java*. Abundant everywhere. A creeper, perhaps a Clematis, was the food plant on which caterpillars and pupae were plentiful, some plants being completely denuded of leaves. On August 18 many Caper Whites were flying around lights on the Derby jetty after dark and it appeared that a migration might be commencing.

Common Grass Yellow, *Terias hecabe*. Fairly common in open country, along the coast and on the river flood plain.

Small Grass Yellow, *Terias similax*. Common and widespread.

Narrow-winged Pearl White, *Elodinia padusa*. Seen in the scrub around Derby and at Fitzroy Crossing during July.

Lesser Wanderer, *Danaida chrysippus*. Seen frequently on the Fitzroy near Liveringa in June and less often near Derby in August.

Common Australian Crow, *Euploea corinna*. A characteristic butterfly of the lush vegetation belt bordering the Fitzroy River but seen also in the pindan and at Broome.

Glass-wing, *Acræa andromacha*. One of the commonest butterflies encountered; it was frequent along the Fitzroy in June, abundant at the foot of the Oscar Ranges in July and again plentiful on the outskirts of Derby and on Cockatoo Island in August.

Tailed Emperor, *Eriboca pyrrhus*. The largest of the butterflies met with, the Tailed Emperor was nowhere common and its fast and rather high flight made netting difficult. Seen at Derby in August and at Broome in September. One was seen about 10 miles north of Anna Plains homestead on September 11.

Meadow Argus, *Preccis villida*. Encountered sparingly near the Fitzroy River and at Meda Station in May.

Blue Argus, *Preccis orithya*. Plentiful along the Fitzroy in June where it was attracted to the low flowers of a mat-like herb. Also seen on Cockatoo Island in August.

Common Grass Blue, *Zizeeria labradus*. Probably very common but only identified at Derby.

Grass Jewel, *Chilades trochilus*. Captured in the pindan near Derby.

An Azure, probably the Satin Azure, *Ogyris amaryllis*, was common around Derby in August, flying high around the *Bauhinia* trees but the species has not been positively identified.

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**A Giant Petrel Inland.**—On May 14, 1956, whilst travelling between Mandurah and Pinjarra I saw a Giant Petrel (*Macronectes giganteus*) approximately 10 miles from the sea. This bird had evidently been blown inland by the gale-force N.W. winds that had swept in from the sea during the previous 12 hours. This bird was almost exhausted and was "battling" to find "up draughts" from the surrounding almost flat nature of the country. The wind velocity during this gale reached a maximum of 67 m.p.h.

—N. E. STEWART, Cottesloe.

**Occurrence of Goldfinch at Albany.**—On January 18, 1957, calls of Goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*) in the lower portion of Lawley Park, Albany, attracted my attention and, after a time, I saw one bird in flight. It alighted in a tree nearby where I obtained good views through binoculars. This bird then flew to a distance, but calls continued from the original source, indicating that there were at least two birds in the vicinity.

This appears to be the first record of the species outside of the Perth metropolitan area.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Collie

**Second Record of a Gannet Ringed in New Zealand.**—On November 12, 1956, I found a dead Gannet (*Sula serrator*) on the beach at Strickland Bay, Rottneest Island. Its tail feathers were